REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 28, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

A "Petition for Extension of Time" for extending the due date for responding to the Office Action by two months and a "Fee Transmittal" for excess independent claim fee are filed with this Amendment, along with a credit card payment form to cover the fee payment ($650.00) for the extension and excess claim. Authorization is granted to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing **Attorney Docket No. 108075-00051**, for any additional fees necessary for entry of this Amendment.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant appreciates the indication that claim 9, objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant, however, respectfully submits that all of the presently pending claims recite allowable subject matter and therefore placing claim 9 into independent form is believed to be unnecessary.

Independent claim 1 has been amended, dependent claim 15 has been added and independent claim 16 has been added. Applicant submits that the amendments made herein are fully supported in the Specification and the drawings, as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been introduced. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are pending in the present application and are respectfully submitted for reconsideration.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Adams et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,436,617). Independent claim 1 has been amended and dependent

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claim 15 has been added. Dependent claims 2-4 and 15 depend from independent claim 1. The rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

In addition, independent claims 5, 10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Adams et al. patent. Dependent claims 6-8 and 11-13 depend from independent claims 5 and 10, respectively. As acknowledged by the Examiner, the Adams et al. patent does not disclose "disconnecting the second node from the second port when the data is not addressed to the second node". The Examiner proceeded to rely on the Adams et al. patent as disclosing "disconnecting a port when it is not connected to the node that is being addressed", and therefore it would have been obvious "to include disconnecting the node from the port when the data is not addressed to the node, the motivation being that the port connects the node to the network; disconnecting the port prevents the node from accessing the network." The rejections are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a method for controlling data transmission in a network system configured by a plurality of nodes including a first node, a second node, and a third node, wherein the first node has a plurality of ports including a first port connected to the second node and a second port connected to the third node, and the first node enables data received by the first port from the second node to be transmitted from the second port to the third node, and wherein each node has address information, the received data including the address information of the node to which the received data is addressed, the method comprising the steps of comparing the address information indicating the first node with the address information included in the received data; and temporarily disconnecting the third node from the first node when the received data is not addressed to the third node.

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With regard to the Section 103 rejections, independent claim 5 recites a data transmission controller comprising a plurality of ports including a first port connected to a first node and a second port connected to a second node; a network information memory for storing node information of the first and second nodes; a packet determiner connected to the first and second ports and the network information memory for determining with the node information an addressee of data received by the first port from the first node; and an interface control circuit connected to the packet determiner to temporarily disconnect the second node from the second port when the data is not addressed to the second node.

Independent claim 10 recites a data transmission controller incorporated in a first node for enabling data received by a first port from a second node to be transmitted by a second port to a third node, wherein the data includes packet information containing a data origination address and a data destination address, the data transmission controller comprising a first interface connected to the first port; a second interface connected to the second port; a network information memory for storing first address information of the first node, second address information of the second node, and third address information of the third node; a packet determiner connected to the first and second interfaces for comparing the data destination address with the second and third address information to determine an addressee of the received data; and an interface control circuit connected to the first and second interfaces, the packet determiner, and the network information memory for controlling the first and second interfaces, wherein the interface control circuit processes the data when the data is addressed to the first node, transmits the data to the third node from the second port when the data is addressed to the third node, and controls the second interface when the data is not addressed to the third node to

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idle the second port and disconnect the second port from the third node to stop data transmission by the second port to the third node.

Independent claim 14 recites a method for controlling data transmission in a network system configured by a plurality of nodes including a first node, a second node, and a third node, wherein the first node has a plurality of ports including a first port connected to the second node and a second port connected to the third node, and the first node enables data received by the first port from the second node to be transmitted by the second port to the third node, and wherein each node has address information, the received data including the address information of the node to which the received data is addressed, the method comprising comparing the address information of the first node with the address information included in the received data; temporarily disconnecting the third node from the second port when the received data is not addressed to the third node to divide the network system into a first sub-network system including the third node and a second sub-network system including the first and second nodes; and permitting data transmission within the first sub-network system.

It is submitted that the Adams et al patent does not disclose or suggest the method for controlling data transmission in a network system as recited in independent claim 1 within the meaning of Section 102 or the data transmission controllers as recited in independent claims 5 and 10 and the method for controlling data transmission in a network system as recited in independent claim 14 with the meaning of Section 103. Specifically, the Adams et al. patent merely discloses a multiport repeater that reads a destination address included in an in-coming data frame received at one port and distributes (transmits) data included in the in-coming data frame to other port(s) according to the destination address. Unlike the claimed invention, the multiport repeater of the Adams et al. patent does not compare the destination address with the

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multiport repeater's address to determine whether the data included in the in-coming data frame is addressed to the multiport repeater. Further, in the claimed invention, a first node executes a processing (network disconnection) when the first node receives data addressed to the first node. In contrast to the claimed invention, the multiport repeater of the Adams et al. patent does not acquire data received at one port to execute a processing on the received data. Therefore, the multiport repeater of the Adams et al patent does not execute a processing according to the destination address. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the Adams et al. patent does not disclose or suggest the methods for controlling data transmission and the data transmission controllers, as claimed. Nor particularly with respect to the Section 103 rejections is there motivation, as suggested by the Examiner, to modify the Adams et al. patent that would suggest or disclose the invention as claimed independent claims 5, 10 and 14.

Based upon the forgoing, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every element of independent claim 1 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the Adams et al. patent, and therefore claim 1 is patentable and in condition for allowance. Since the Adams et al. patent fails to disclose or suggest comparing the destination address with the multiport repeater's address to determine whether the data included in the in-coming data frame is addressed to the multiport repeater and executing a processing according to the destination address, Applicant further submits that the features of each of independent claims 5, 10 and 14 would not have been obvious at the time the present invention was made nor such motivation as suggested by the Examiner, and thus the claims are also patentable and in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested.

It is further submitted that the dependent claims are also patentable and in condition for allowance due to their dependency upon their parent claims, since the dependent claims differ in

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scope from the parent claims. Dependent claims 2-4 and 15 depend from independent claim 1,

dependent claims 6-8 depend from independent claim 5 and dependent claims 11-13 depend

from independent claim 10, and thus are further limited to additional features of the invention.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are patentable over the Adams et

al. patent for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims.

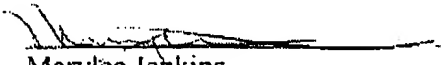Reconsideration is requested.

New independent claim 16 recites a method for controlling data transmission in a

network system configured by a plurality of nodes including a first node, a second node, and a

third node, wherein the first node has a plurality of ports including a first port connected to the

second node and a second port connected to the third node, and the first node enables data

received by the first port from the second node to be transmitted from the second port to the third

node, and wherein each node has address information, the received data including the address

information of the node to which the received data is addressed, the method comprising the steps

of comparing the address information of the first node with the address information included in

the received data; and temporarily disconnecting the third node from the first node when the

received data is addressed to the first node.

With reference to the above arguments concerning the independent claims, Applicant

submits that the Adams et al. patent also does not disclose or suggest each and every element of

independent claim 16. Specifically, the Adams et al. patent fails to disclose or suggest a method

for controlling data transmission comprising, in part, comparing the address information of the

first node with the address information included in the received data; and temporarily

disconnecting the third node from the first node when the received data is addressed to the first

node, as claimed. Therefore, entry of new independent claim 16 is respectfully requested.

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If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicant's undersigned counsel at the telephone number, indicated below, to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

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